

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: OECD, AORG, ENRG  
SUBJECT: IEA SECURITY GROUP

REF: A) STATE 292785 B) IEA/WP(76)12

1. AT DEC 8 MEETING OF IEA AD HOC GROUP ON SECURITY  
ALL DELS EXCEPT GERMAN AGREED TO REVISED DEFINITIONS  
OF IEA CLASSIFICATION "SECRET" AND "HIGHLY  
CONFIDENTIAL." GERMAN DEL, WHO OBJECTED TO USE OF  
"HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL" BECAUSE IT DID NOT HAVE PRECISE  
EQUIVALENT IN GERMAN SYSTEM, AGREED TO RECOMMEND  
ACCEPTANCE BY BONN IN LIGHT OF MAJORITY VIEW. ALL OTHER  
DELS INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD APPLY TO "HIGHLY  
CONFIDENTIAL" A NATIONAL CLASSIFICATION ROUGHLY  
EQUIVALENT TO U.S. CONFIDENTIAL. U.S. AND SEVERAL  
OTHER DELS URGED SECRETARIAT TO AVOID ESCALATION IN  
USE OF THIS CLASSIFICATION. SECRETARIAT (HOPKINS)  
VOICED INTENTION TO RESERVE THIS CATEGORY TO DOCUMENTS  
TRULY REQUIRING SPECIAL HANDLING AND MORE LIMITED  
DISTRIBUTION THAN OECD "CONFIDENTIAL," INDICATING  
THAT DOCUMENTS RELATING TO PRODUCER/CONSUMER TACTICS  
WOULD PROBABLY REMAIN VIRTUALLY THE SOLE USE OF  
"HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL."

2. AD HOC GROUP ALSO GAVE GENERAL SUPPORT TO PLANS  
FOR HANDLING "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL" DOCUMENTS WITHIN  
SECRETARIAT. GERMANS, DANES AND OTHERS, HOWEVER,  
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QUESTIONED WISDOM OF NOT REQUIRING SECURITY CLEARANCE

FOR THOSE SECRETARIAT EMPLOYEES HANDLING "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL." HOPKINS EXPLAINED THIS ON GROUNDS THAT WHILE NUMBER OF STAFF MEMBERS WHO WOULD HANDLE DOCUMENTS CLASSIFIED "SECRET" WAS EXTREMELY LIMITED, IT WOULD REQUIRE SECURITY CLEARANCE FOR VIRTUALLY ENTIRE IEA STAFF TO COVER THOSE WHO WOULD FROM TIME TO TIME HANDLE "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL." IN ADDITION TO PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES, THIS COULD LEAD TO SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH OECD STAFF ASSOCIATION, WHICH HAD ALREADY EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER INTRODUCTION OF CLEARANCE REQUIREMENT. HE AGREED, HOWEVER, TO LOOK INTO FEASIBILITY OF REQUIRING CLEARANCES FOR THOSE WHO WOULD REGULARLY HANDLE "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL" MATERIAL RELATED TO BURROWS GROUP.

3. DISCUSSION REVEALED THAT SECURITY CLEARANCE INVESTIGATIONS FOR ALL COUNTRIES COVERED ROUGHLY THE AREAS INDICATED IN PARA 12 OF REF B. THEREFORE, THERE WAS NO EFFORT TO ESTABLISH AGREED CRITERIA FOR SUCH INVESTIGATIONS. IT WAS SIMPLY AGREED THAT ALL GOVERNMENTS WOULD CONDUCT FOR THEIR NATIONALS REQUIRING IEA "SECRET" CLEARANCE THE LEVEL OF SECURITY INVESTIGATION REQUIRED NATIONALLY FOR THEIR CLASSIFICATION LEVEL CORRESPONDING TO IEA "SECRET."

4. UPSHOT OF MEETING WAS THAT SECRETARIAT WILL PREPARE PAPER SUMMARIZING CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDING APPROVAL BY GOVERNING BOARD. BECAUSE OF STRONG DESIRE TO AVOID NECESSITY FOR DISCUSSION BY GB, DRAFT DOCUMENT WILL BE CIRCULATED TO DELEGATIONS TO CONFIRM THEIR AGREEMENT. AD HOC GROUP ON SECURITY WILL NOT MEET AGAIN UNLESS COMMENTS ON CONCLUSIONS DOCUMENT INDICATE A NEED FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION PRIOR TO GB ACTION.  
TURNER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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